

D1: Biblical Repentance: 2 Corinthians 7:11

I. The Corinthians' Offense

The Corinthians' offense against Paul was to abandon him as he confronted false teachers in Corinth.

TIMELINE

- Paul stays in Corinth for 18 months on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:11)
- Paul ends his second missionary journey; begins third journey and settles in Ephesus
- Paul writes first letter (lost letter) - addressing sin issues (1Cor 5:9) "I wrote to you in my letter"
- Corinthians ask Paul clarifying questions
- Paul writes 1Cor to answer questions
- Paul learns of the false apostles (2Cor 11:12-13)
- Paul travels to Corinth from Ephesus for the "painful visit" (2Cor 2:1)
- Paul confronting the false teachers in Corinth
- the Corinthians abandon Paul before the false teachers (2Cor 2:5-8,10; 7:12))
- Paul is grieved by the Corinthians' lack of support for him
- Paul writes the letter that caused sorrow
 - (2 Cor 2:4) "For out of much affliction . . . I wrote to you with many tears"
 - (2 Cor 7:8) "For though I caused you sorrow by my letter. . ."
- Paul comforted by Titus' report (2:6-7; 7:15)
- Paul writes 2Cor

II. The Corinthians' Repentance

Biblical repentance requires a **sorrow** that is according to the **will** of **God** (2 Cor 7:9-10).

A. Earnestness (2 Cor 7:11a)

A **persistent striving** to correct a pattern of sin.

B. Vindication (2 Cor 7:11b)

A defense consisting primarily of the **absence** of the sin pattern.

C. Indignation (2 Cor 7:11c)

A **feeling** of **anger** over the decision to sin.

The repentant man is indignant for the following reasons:

1. He has loved what God hates (Isaiah 9:3)
2. He has added to the sufferings of Christ (1 Peter 2:24)
3. He has deceived himself (James 1:14)
4. He has imitated spiritual deadness (Ephesians 2:1-3)

D. Fear (2 Cor 7:11d)

A **healthy reverence** for the One who is most **offended** by our sin.

E. Longing (2 Cor 7:11e)

A strong desire to **restore** the **relationship** that has been harmed because of sin.

F. Zeal (2 Cor 7:11f)

A passion motivated by both **love** and **hate**.

G. Avenging of wrong (2 Cor 7:11g)

To **apply** a **consequence** that promotes holiness of life

III. Encouragement for us today

Successful repentance requires **God's grace** and **man's effort**.

A. Grace - Christ's victory over death and sin enables your victory over sin (Rom 6:4-7)

Rom 6:4 - the ability to walk in newness of life

Rom 6:6-7 - freedom from sin's power

B. Effort - your active participation in what grace has already enabled you to do (Phil 2:12,13)